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STATE FOR EAP/ANP

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KNNP](#) [KTIA](#) [NZ](#)  
SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND RESPONSE TO CONVENTION ON  
SUPPLEMENTARY COMPENSATION FOR NUCLEAR DAMAGE

REF: STATE 54213

¶1. (SBU) A senior policy analyst from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT contacted Pol/Econ Counselor on June 26 with an interim response to reftel demarche. She noted that her office has sought detailed advice from a New Zealand expert, who is also part of the IAEA's expert group on nuclear technology (INLEX). So far, they have not received a comprehensive response.

¶2. (SBU) In general, New Zealand is very supportive of the Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) and welcome the USG decision to ratify the Convention. There are many aspects of the instrument that New Zealand regards positively, including increased compensation limits, new heads of damage, etc. New Zealand, however, has difficulties with the CSC's requirement for non-nuclear states which are party, and sit above the UN's minimum scale, to contribute in the event of any incident. New Zealand's INLEX expert reportedly has raised these concerns before and MFAT believes that the USG is aware of the New Zealand government position on this issue. The GNZ is also conscious that the CSC ratification process is in an early stage and entry into force relies on some of the large nuclear power generating nations coming on board.

¶3. (U) Post will report further substantive responses from the GNZ on this issue.  
MCCORMICK